

MHK-5008

3 June 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Hong Kong Bureau--May 1985

I. GENERAL

A. Further reminders of 1997 were much in evidence this month. At a low-key ceremony in Beijing on May 27th, China and Britain exchanged the instruments of ratification of the Sino-British joint declaration on the future of Hong Kong. This completed the final formality in the 1997 talks and marked Hong Kong's official entry into the 12-year transition after which the territory's sovereignty will revert to China. Earlier in the month, the two countries announced the names of their respective members who will serve on the Joint Liaison Group and Land Commission. These two bodies were created by the joint declaration to deal with key issues during the transition period. Public sentiment toward 1997 remains mixed. The Hong Kong stock market hit its highest point since 1981, indicating continuing confidence in the territory's economic livelihood. At the same time, a surprise announcement by Sing Tao Newspapers Ltd., the company that owns the HONG KONG STANDARD, generated new concern about Hong Kong's political future. Sing Tao reported that it would shift its base of operations from Hong Kong to Australia. Stock analysts saw the move as a sign of "underlying nervousness about the territory's future."

B. A major warehouse fire in Kowloon early in the month destroyed \$400,000 worth of new Consulate furniture. The furniture was in storage pending completion of the Consulate's two new apartment buildings. The one apartment, which was to have been completed in 1983, has still not been occupied due to structural defects and leaking. The other building is under construction but also well behind schedule. The warehouse fire also destroyed the HHE of five recently-arrived Consulate families. [redacted] air freight, which had arrived a few days before the fire, fortunately had been put in another warehouse.

C. As the bureau has pointed out in earlier messages to Admin staff, Hong Kong is suffering from a shortage of hotel rooms. Travelers are reminded to make reservations as soon as possible. The Hong Kong Tourist Association recently reported that tourism has increased by 21 percent in the past 2 years, while the number of hotel rooms has gone up by only 3 percent. Several large hotels are under construction now but completion is not expected until next year.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. May was another near record month for the bureau, with output hitting 1,124,210 words, the second highest figure in the bureau's history. Production on the Philippines did in fact reach a record 152,420 words. A lengthy "White Paper" on the insurgency problem, published in seven installments in the Manila BULLETIN TODAY, contributed to the record output. Extensive reportage on insurgency activities in general and Mindanao in particular, the worsening economic situation and efforts to secure foreign loans, and the visit by CIA Director William Casey all helped boost the monthly output on the Philippines.

2. An AFP report of an interview with General Secretary Hu Yaobang, in which he talked about using force against Taiwan, generated immediate consumer interest here and in the States. The State Department issued press guidance on how to respond should questions be asked about the AFP report. The full interview, published in the 1 June Hong Kong PAI HSING, was obtained by the bureau the afternoon of the 31st. With four monitors and an extra teletypist working overtime on Saturday, and the deputy chief and his successor lending a hand to the duty editor, the 27-tape interview was completed by early Saturday evening. The complete interview was run on the Wire. The bureau's commendable efforts in handling the text, unfortunately, were overshadowed by some rather grievous mistakes in turning out an FYI and out-of-turn excerpts. The bureau chief, in a moment of leniency, decided to reeducate rather than execute three employees.

3. Coverage of Shijiazhuang Hebei provincial service and Beijing city service was transferred to Seoul Bureau on 16 May. Both stations are recorded by our Beijing contract monitor and tapes mailed out for processing. The respective papers, HEBEI RIBAO and BEIJING RIBAO, will also be pouched to Seoul for processing.

4. China announced during the month that a new international version of RENMIN RIBAO will become available outside of China starting 1 July. Preliminary reports indicate that it will differ somewhat from the domestic version. The bureau will arrange for a subscription and provide an evaluation.

5. The idea of establishing a dedicated phone-link to a remote receiver setup in the Philippines was sent back to the drawing board when final cost estimates were received. While preliminary inquiries last year had indicated such a circuit could be had for around \$14,000 a year, the current cost estimate was right at \$91,000. The bureau will be proposing a considerably less expensive dial-up arrangement as an alternative to the dedicated line concept. In the meantime, Okinawa is proceeding with another element of the remote plan: a dedicated phone line via Autovon.

6. Reception of New Zealand radio has deteriorated with the onset of summer, with most newscasts either not, or barely, monitorable. We are looking into the feasibility of obtaining subscriptions to the two major papers, to replace or supplement our poor radio coverage during the summer months.

B. Communications

The bureau's primary communications circuit to the Philippines was successfully upgraded to 300 baud on 26 May, following a week of off and on testing. The testing and initial efforts to make the changeover caused several lengthy outages. Our teletypists complained the first few days of paper slippage and the fast flow of paper after the circuit was opened in the morning. But people and printers all seem to be adjusting.

C. Technical

1. Further progress was made during the month in our efforts to obtain a landline backup to our microwave circuit. During a brief visit by [] early in the month, talks were held with representatives of Hong Kong Telephone and Communications Services Limited. The latter has the digital multiplexing equipment that we will require. By month's end, Headquarters had given approval to proceed with the project and [] was working out the final plans for purchasing equipment.

2. The bureau had a 4-hour scheduled power outage after midnight on the 14th. The emergency generator operated as expected, but a few pieces of equipment had blown fuses and other minor damage that morning, apparently due to power fluctuations or surges.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. [] new deputy chief/chief editor, arrived PCS on 17 May.

2. Junior editor [] learned during a brief ceremony in the chief's office of her recent promotion to GS-9.

3. The bureau's FBN evaluation and promotion subpanel met on 30 May. Promotion recommendations will be submitted to Headquarters in early June.

4. The bureau received notice from Headquarters that a 4.9 percent pay increase for foreign national employees had been approved by State and FMCD. But in further consultations with Consulate administrative personnel it was learned that the Consulate itself had received no confirmation of the pay raise. When the Consulate did receive official word, they appealed the percentage increase. The initial proposal to State had been for an approximate 7 percent increase. The Consulate is now waiting further word from State. *Decision:*

6.2 %

B. Buildings and Grounds

Modifications to the building air conditioning system were carried out the weekend of 18-19 May. The aim--and the successful result--was to increase the amount of cool air flowing into the new commo room. Heat generated from teletype equipment and inadequate ducting to that area were creating unacceptably high temperatures. The modification has lowered average room temperatures and allowed us to discontinue using a portable AC unit which was being used to supplement the building system.

IV. VISITS

STAT

A. [] returned on 6 May from emergency visitation travel to the States.

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B. [] stopped over 4-8 May en route back from a visit to Bangkok Bureau.

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C. Jeff Buczacki, political officer from Beijing Embassy, was given a briefing and tour of the bureau on 21 May. Jeff was in Hong Kong for a 1-month exchange program, while one of the Consulate's political officers was serving in Beijing and Shanghai.

STAT

D. [] visited the bureau on the 27th, while on a short vacation in Hong Kong.

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E. [] vacationing away from Okinawa, visited the bureau on the 28th.

F. [] VOA correspondent in Hong Kong, came to the bureau on 1 June for a brief talk with the bureau chief and to pick up copies of traffic he normally receives via pony line. VOA is still in the process of getting a 300 baud printer installed and temporarily is unable to receive the regular incoming file.

V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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A bureau "hail and farewell" buffet dinner was held at the bureau chief's residence the evening of 1 June. Honored guests were [] who will be departing for Seoul on 14 June; bureau secretary [] who will be leaving later in the summer; [] and bureau secretary designate [] The bureau's FBN staff will also be giving a farewell dinner at a local restaurant the evening of the 9th.

[]
Bureau Chief

Attachments:

Monthly Production Report

cc: Original ✓ and 3 - Hqs
C/Bangkok
C/Okinawa
C/Seoul

HONG KONG BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR MAY 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	1124210
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	100910
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1577

BROAD-CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI-CATIONS
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II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:
(MINUTES OR ISSUES PER WEEK)

MIN.	MIN.	ISSUES
4775	10140	257

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)

CHINA	
BEIJING INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN TAGALOG	7210
BEIJING TELEVISION SERVICE IN MANDARIN	2630
CHANGSHA HUNAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	5950
CHENGDU SICHUAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	10880
GUANGZHOU GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	7900
GUIYANG GUIZHOU PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	5130
HAIKOU HAINAN ISLAND SERVICE IN MANDARIN	7690
KUNMING YUNNAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	9010
LANZHOU GANSU PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	14930
LHASA XIZANG REGIONAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	6610
NANNING GUANGXI REGIONAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	8450
SHIJIAZHUANG HEBEI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	3550
URUMQI XINJIANG REGIONAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	10980
WUHAN HUBEI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	6630
XIAN SHAANXI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	4000
XINING QINGHAI PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	4710
ZHENGZHOU HENAN PROVINCIAL SERVICE IN MANDARIN	7100

BEIJING XINHUA HONG KONG SERVICE IN CHINESE	5910
BEIJING ZHONGGUO XINWEN SHE IN CHINESE	20370
BEIJING BAN YUE TAN IN CHINESE	4630
BEIJING BAOGAO WENXUE IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING BEIJING REVIEW IN ENGLISH	12260
BEIJING BEIJING RIBAO IN CHINESE	6860
BEIJING BEIJING WANBAO IN CHINESE	780
BEIJING CHINA DAILY IN ENGLISH	23700
BEIJING GONGREN RIBAO IN CHINESE	4000
BEIJING GUANGMING RIBAO IN CHINESE	30330
BEIJING GUOJI SHANGBAO IN CHINESE	3510
BEIJING GUOJI WENTI YANJIU IN CHINESE	17980
BEIJING HONGQI IN CHINESE	89900
BEIJING HUANQIU CHINESE	0
BEIJING JIEFANGJUN WENYI IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING JINGJI GUANLI IN CHINESE	37760
BEIJING JINGJI RIBAO IN CHINESE	32630
BEIJING JINGJIXUE ZHOUBAO IN CHINESE	620
BEIJING JINGJI YANJIU IN CHINESE	38060
BEIJING LIAOWANG IN CHINESE	12090
BEIJING LILUN YUEKAN IN CHINESE	18340
BEIJING LISHI YANJIU IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING NONGMIN RIBAO IN CHINESE	6120
BEIJING RENMIN RIBAO IN CHINESE	138210
BEIJING SHIJIE JINGJI IN CHINESE	22070
BEIJING SHIJIE LISHI IN CHINESE	0
BEIJING SHIJIE ZHISHI IN CHINESE	11510
BEIJING WENXUE PINGLUN IN CHINESE	0

BEIJING WENYI BAO IN	
CHINESE	3600
BEIJING WENZHAI BAO IN	
CHINESE	0
BEIJING XINWEN ZHANXIAN IN	
CHINESE	0
BEIJING ZHEXUE YANJIU IN	
CHINESE	0
BEIJING ZHONGGUO FAZHI BAO IN	
CHINESE	720
BEIJING ZHONGGUO QINGNIAN BAO IN	
CHINESE	1020
CHENGDU SICHUAN RIBAO IN	
CHINESE	860
CHONGQING CHONGQING RIBAO IN	
CHINESE	650
FUZHOU ZHONGGUO JINGJI WENTI IN	
CHINESE	0
GUANGZHOU GUANGZHOU RIBAO IN	
CHINESE	2690
GUANGZHOU GUANGZHOU YANJIU IN	
CHINESE	0
GUANGZHOU KAIFANG IN	
CHINESE	5500
GUANGZHOU NANFANG RIBAO IN	
CHINESE	1750
GUANGZHOU YANGCHENG WANBAO IN	
CHINESE	0
HAIKOU HAINAN RIBAO IN	
CHINESE	0
KUNMING YUNNAN RIBAO IN	
CHINESE	520
LANZHOU LANZHOU WANBAO IN	
CHINESE	800
SHANGHAI SHIJIE JINGJI DAOBAO IN	
CHINESE	11960
SHIJIAZHUANG HEBEI RIBAO IN	
CHINESE	4300
TAIYUAN SHANXI RIBAO IN	
CHINESE	11740
WUHAN CHANGJIANG RIBAO IN	
CHINESE	0
WUHAN HUBEI RIBAO IN	
CHINESE	16290
XIAN SHAANXI RIBAO IN	
CHINESE	25390
YINCHUAN NINGXIA RIBAO IN	
CHINESE	14620
HONG KONG	
HONG KONG ASIA TELEVISION LTD IN	
ENGLISH	300
HONG KONG TELEVISION BROADCAST LTD IN	
ENGLISH	120

HONG KONG COMMERCIAL RADIO IN ENGLISH	220	
HONG KONG DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	1020	
HONG KONG AFP IN ENGLISH		136770
HONG KONG ASIAWEEK IN ENGLISH		0
HONG KONG CHANWANG IN CHINESE		0
HONG KONG CHENG MING IN CHINESE		5010
HONG KONG CHING PAO IN CHINESE		0
HONG KONG CHIUSHIH NIENTAI IN CHINESE		0
HONG KONG FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW IN ENGLISH		2380
HONG KONG HONG KONG STANDARD IN ENGLISH		8290
HONG KONG HONG KONG STANDARD (BUSINESS STANDARD SUPPLEMENT) IN ENGLISH		1990
HONG KONG HSIN WAN PAO IN CHINESE		2880
HONG KONG KUANG CHIAO CHING IN CHINESE		2400
HONG KONG MING PAO IN CHINESE		3340
HONG KONG PAI HSING IN CHINESE		8870
HONG KONG SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST IN ENGLISH		18370
HONG KONG SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST (BUSINESS NEWS SUPPLEMENT) IN ENGLISH		5920
HONG KONG TA KUNG PAO IN CHINESE		4250
HONG KONG TA KUNG PAO IN ENGLISH		3240
HONG KONG WEN WEI PO IN CHINESE		2070
NEW ZEALAND WELLINGTON OVERSEAS SERVICE IN ENGLISH	940	
PHILIPPINES MANILA FAR EAST BROADCASTING COMPANY IN ENGLISH	13180	
MANILA FAR EAST BROADCASTING COMPANY IN TAGALOG	620	
MANILA RADIO VERITAS IN TAGALOG	1130	
DAGUPAN CITY DZDL RADIO IN TAGALOG	0	

QUEZON CITY MAHARLIKA BROADCASTING SYSTEM IN ENGLISH	13190	
MANILA BULLETIN TODAY IN ENGLISH		40080
MANILA BUSINESS DAY IN ENGLISH		36410
MANILA METRO MANILA TIMES IN ENGLISH		7480
MANILA PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS IN ENGLISH		7960
MANILA PHILIPPINES SUNDAY EXPRESS IN ENGLISH		2750
MANILA TIMES JOURNAL IN ENGLISH		11440
DAVAO CITY PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM IN ENGLISH		1660
DAVAO CITY SAN PEDRO EXPRESS IN ENGLISH		730
DAVAO CITY THE MINDANAO MIRROR BULLETIN IN ENGLISH		720
DAVAO CITY THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR IN ENGLISH		610
QUEZON CITY ANG PAHAYAGANG MALAYA IN ENGLISH		11650
QUEZON CITY VERITAS IN ENGLISH		2810